

# American Opinion Summary

Department of State

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## RUSSIA AND CUBA

Says President when the signing of tensions in the U.S.-Soviet confrontation over Cuba is finally behind him. As the Milwaukee Journal expressed it: "Immediate fears are lifted, but this must not end caution. It does not solve the basic problems of the cold war." Roscoe Drummond warns that cancelling the venture "does not mean that the Kremlin is calling off the cold war."

The New York Times sees "compelling reasons for continued caution": the "Soviet record of broken promises," the chance that Premier Khrushchev may now try to push hard on Berlin, Castro's belligerent posture.

A further reason for skepticism about Khrushchev's fulfillment of his promise: "Cancellation would be premature until the 'launching bases' have been dismantled, the missiles removed to Russia and U.N. inspection made so secure that they cannot be secretly replaced," Roscoe Drummond cautions. The Philadelphia Bulletin endorses "a cool wait-and-see attitude" towards the Khrushchev promise to withdraw "his missiles from Cuba."

President Kennedy's decision to withdraw from the Soviet guarantee of missile withdrawal is given credit. For the Soviet guarantee of missile withdrawal (e.g., Chicago News, Chicago Tribune, N.Y. Herald Tribune, Wisconsin State Journal, Capital).

Some see the possibility of further gains in "The psychological effects on the course of the Cold War should be profound," the Chicago News asserts. Edwin Cannon, after noting that the Berlin crisis "is yet to come," says: "The crisis rattled the basic of national firmness, definiteness, and courage may aid in solving another with the same tools."

President Kennedy's combination of moderation with resolution draws additional commendation. (e.g., Christian Science Monitor, N.Y. Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch).

However, some criticism is heard. Six in particular conservative organs. Several raise editorial questions as to why the President did not move sooner to end the missile buildup in Cuba. (e.g., Wall St. Journal, David Lawrence, Hanson, Macmillan, New York Herald Tribune). And a group has been formed to protest the terms of the Cuban settlement, particularly "assurances" that Cuba would not be involved under the leadership of Edward W. Rickenbacker and William F. Buckley Jr.